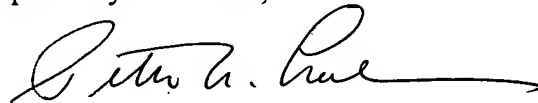


Remarks

The discrepancy in the claims noted by the Examiner has been noted. In response, each of the independent claims has been amended to recite the ring or band member having a height of a dimension selected from a group of dimensions each not greater than the dimension of the height of the annular portion of the first flexible member or first cup-shaped member. Several additional amendments relating to formalities also have been made.

In view of the foregoing, it again is requested that the rejection of the claims to be withdrawn, such claims be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter N. Lalos", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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